GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
CIVIL AIRPORTS AND HELIPADS IN NORTH EAST REGION
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of operational civil airports/helipads in the North Eastern States and those which have suspended their operations in the region along with the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) the details of proposals received for upgradation of civil airports/helipads in the region during the last three years and the current year and the action taken thereon along with the details of civil airports/helipads upgraded in these States during the said period;

(c) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation have conducted detailed inspection of all the critical airports, airfields and helipads in the North East Region and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase aerial connectivity to the region by increasing flights as well as helicopter services?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED () QUESTION NO. 86 FOR 14.07.2014 REGARDING CIVIL AIRPORTS AND HELIPADS IN NORTH EAST REGION

(a): The details of operational Civil Airports and Helipads in North-Eastern States is at Annexure-I. None of the operational airports in these States have closed its operations in the last three years. However, operations at Tawang helipad were suspended subsequent to MI172 helicopter accident.

(b): The details of proposals received for upgradation of civil airports in the North-Eastern States during the last three years and the current year and the action taken thereon along with the details of civil airports upgraded in these States is at Annexure-II. No such proposal has been received for upgradation of helipads.

(c): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) conducted inspection of Agartala airport on 6th August, 2010 and observed that the airport was considered critical for operation of B-737 aircraft before the extension of the runway. However, after extension of runway by 457m, the airport has been upgraded to handle B-737 and A-320 aircraft. DGCA also conducted inspection of Lengpui (Aizwal) airport during 4-5 August, 2010 and observed that this airport was surrounded by hills and as the usability of runway was unidirectional, it was a critical airfield. These inspections were to assess the criticality of the airport vis-a-vis ICAO regulations with regard to the Communication and navigational services including meteorological services.

(d): With a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for connectivity to remote areas in the country, the Government have issued route dispersal guidelines. Air connectivity has been extended by helicopters to Mizoram and Nagaland by Pawan Hans Ltd. and Thampy Aviation Pvt. Limited. The details of current aircraft operations and helicopter operations from/to North East Region are at Annexure-III and Annexure-IV respectively.